



General Assembly

***Amendment***

November 24 Special Session, 2008

LCO No. 7068

\*HB0760107068HRO\*

Offered by:

REP. CAFERO, 142<sup>nd</sup> Dist.

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To: House Bill No. 7601

File No.

Cal. No.

***"AN ACT CONCERNING DEFICIT MITIGATION."***

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a  
4 Commission for Minority and Protected Class Citizens that shall  
5 consist of the following members who shall be appointed as follows:  
6 (1) One by the Governor, who shall have expertise in the field of  
7 African-American affairs; (2) one by the president pro tempore of the  
8 Senate, who shall have expertise in the field of children and youth  
9 development; (3) one by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall  
10 have expertise in issues affecting the elderly; (4) one by the minority  
11 leader of the Senate, who shall have expertise in the field of issues  
12 affecting women; (5) one by the speaker of the House of  
13 Representatives, who shall have expertise in the field of Latino and  
14 Puerto Rican affairs; (6) one by the majority leader of the House of

15 Representatives, who shall be a member of the public; and (7) one by  
16 the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall have  
17 expertise in the field of Asian Pacific American affairs. All members  
18 appointed under this subsection shall serve for terms of two years  
19 from January first in the year of their appointment. The commission  
20 shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its  
21 members. Any person absent from (A) three consecutive meetings of  
22 the commission, or (B) fifty per cent of such meetings during any  
23 calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the commission,  
24 effective immediately. Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by  
25 the appointing authority. Members of the commission shall serve  
26 without compensation but shall, within the limits of available funds,  
27 be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of  
28 their duties. The commission shall meet as often as deemed necessary  
29 by the chairperson or a majority of the commission.

30 (b) The commission, within available appropriations, shall:

31 (1) Develop a plan prior to the beginning of each legislative session  
32 that outlines the commission's priorities for the session and strategies  
33 to accomplish each priority;

34 (2) Work in consultation with the respective state agency to develop  
35 plans and programs that address each of the following areas as they  
36 affect children, the elderly, women, the African-American community,  
37 the Latino and Puerto Rican community and the Asian Pacific  
38 American community, including, but not limited to: (A) Access to  
39 health care, (B) housing, (C) job training, (D) access to the legal system,  
40 (E) mental health and addiction services, (F) economic development,  
41 (G) workplace justice and equality, (H) immigration, (I) education, (J)  
42 English language instruction, (K) international trade, and (L) economic  
43 cooperation with Asian, African and Latin American countries;

44 (3) In consultation with the joint committee of the General Assembly  
45 having cognizance of matters relating to legislative management,  
46 establish a plan of short-term and long-term initiatives based on the

47 needs of children, the elderly, women, the African-American  
48 community, the Latino and Puerto Rican community and the Asian  
49 Pacific American community;

50 (4) Review, comment and testify on any proposed state legislation  
51 and regulations that would affect children, the elderly, women, the  
52 African-American community, the Latino and Puerto Rican  
53 community and the Asian Pacific American community;

54 (5) Advise and provide information to the Governor and the  
55 General Assembly on the state's policies concerning children, the  
56 elderly, women, the African-American community, the Latino and  
57 Puerto Rican community and the Asian Pacific American community;

58 (6) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly concerning the  
59 coordination and administration of state programs serving children,  
60 the elderly, women, the African-American community, the Latino and  
61 Puerto Rican community and the Asian Pacific American community;

62 (7) Maintain a liaison between children, the elderly, women, the  
63 African-American community, the Latino and Puerto Rican  
64 community and the Asian Pacific American community and  
65 governmental entities, including, but not limited to, the General  
66 Assembly;

67 (8) Promote the political empowerment of the elderly, women, the  
68 African-American community, the Latino and Puerto Rican  
69 community and the Asian Pacific American community through voter  
70 registration, voting rights and citizenship training;

71 (9) Support the state's efforts to develop international trade and  
72 cross-border economic cooperation with the countries of Asia, Africa,  
73 Latin America and the Pacific Rim;

74 (10) Support state efforts to develop effective foreign language and  
75 cultural programs for educational and economic development  
76 purposes;

77 (11) Encourage female, elderly, African-American, Latino and  
78 Puerto Rican and Asian Pacific American representation at all levels of  
79 state government, including state boards and commissions, and  
80 support the development of such representatives in addition to  
81 maintaining an accessible list of prospective appointees who are  
82 members of such communities;

83 (12) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and  
84 contributions of women, the elderly, the African-American, the Latino  
85 and Puerto Rican and the Asian Pacific American communities of the  
86 state; and

87 (13) Prepare and submit to the Governor and General Assembly an  
88 annual report concerning its activities with any appropriate  
89 recommendations concerning children, women, the elderly, and the  
90 African-American, Latino and Puerto Rican and Asian Pacific  
91 American populations of the state.

92 (c) The commission may use such funds as may be available from  
93 federal, state or other sources and may enter into contracts to carry out  
94 the purposes of this section.

95 (d) The commission shall consist of the following six divisions: (1)  
96 The Children's Affairs Division, (2) the Elderly Affairs Division, (3) the  
97 Women's Affairs Division, (4) the African-American Affairs Division,  
98 (5) the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Division, and (6) the Asian  
99 Pacific American Affairs Division.

100 (e) The commission may, within available appropriations and  
101 subject to the provisions of chapter 67 of the general statutes, employ  
102 two staff members for each division of the commission and may  
103 employ an executive director.

104 (f) The commission shall constitute a successor agency to the  
105 Commission on Aging, the Commission on Children, the Permanent  
106 Commission on the Status of Women, the Latino and Puerto Rican  
107 Affairs Commission, the African-American Affairs Commission and

108 the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, in accordance with  
109 the provisions of sections 4-38d and 4-39 of the general statutes.

110 (g) The commission shall be part of the Legislative Department.

111 Sec. 502. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any provision of  
112 the general statutes, the state of Connecticut shall enter into collective  
113 bargaining negotiations with applicable designated employee  
114 organizations in order to increase by one hundred per cent, the  
115 copayments for prescription drugs and other health care benefits paid  
116 by any person who, on and after the effective date of this act, is: (1)  
117 Employed by the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, or a  
118 member of the General Assembly; and (2) enrolled in a health  
119 insurance program offered by the state of Connecticut.

120 Sec. 503. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any  
121 provision of the general statutes, the Joint Committee on Legislative  
122 Management shall reduce the number of sessional employees of the  
123 General Assembly employed by the committee by two-thirds, as  
124 measured from the number of such sessional employees employed by  
125 the committee during the regular 2008 legislative session.

126 Sec. 504. Sections 2-120, 2-121, 17b-420, 46a-1, 46a-2, 46a-3, 46a-4,  
127 46a-4b, 46a-5, 46a-6, 46a-126, 46a-127, 46a-128, 46a-129, 46a-130, 46a-  
128 131, 46a-131a of the general statutes and the 2008 supplement to the  
129 general statutes and public act 08-166 are repealed. (*Effective from*  
130 *passage*)"